

URBAN DISTRICT OF ABRAM.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the YEAR 1944.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres 1984. Population - Census, 1931 - 6660.

Registrar-General's estimate of
Resident population, mid-1944 5507.Number of inhabited houses - (a) Census, 1931 - 1458.
(b) End of 1944 according to rate books -
1548.

Rateable value £20,401. Sum represented by a penny rate - £78.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area:- Abram is almost entirely an industrial area being a coal mining district with houses of the working class type.Extent of unemployment: At December, 1944 - Wholly unemployed:-
Men 111, Women 6.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS

Live Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	120	74	46
Illegitimate	1	1	Nil
Total	121	75	46

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1944 - 21.9

Stillbirths:	Total	Male	Female
	7	3	4

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 54.

DEATHS

Total	Male	Female
69	42	27

Rate per 1,000 estimated population - 12.5

Deaths from puerperal causes:	Deaths	Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal & post abortive sepris	Nil	Nil
Other maternal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	33
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	25
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	1000

/over

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil

BIRTHS - The birth rate for 1944 shows an increase of 2.4 over 1943, and an increase of 3.9 over the five years average 1939-1943.

DEATHS - The death rate for 1944 gives an increase of 1.2 over 1943 but a decrease of 0.7 over the five years average 1939-1943.

The death rate of infants shows a decrease of 4 compared with 1943 and 29 compared with the average of the five years 1939-1943.

The death rate from cancer per 1,000 of the estimated population for 1944 is 1.81 which is an increase of 0.17 over 1943 and an increase of 0.45 over the five years average 1939-1943.

The death rate from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system for 1944 is 0.54 which is an increase of 0.36 over 1943 and 0.17 over the five years average 1939-1943.

This year again there have been no maternal deaths.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	0
Syphilitic Disease	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0
Cancer of buccal cavity; oesophagus; uterus	0	2
Cancer of stomach; duodenum	2	0
Cancer of breast	0	1
Cancer of all other sites	3	2
Diabetes	0	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	7	4
Heart Disease	6	1
Other diseases of the circulation	3	2
Bronchitis	4	1
Pneumonia	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	1
Nephritis	1	1
Premature birth	0	1
Congenital birth injuries and diseases	1	0
Violence	2	1
All other causes	8	5
	<u>42</u>	<u>27</u>

AGE INCIDENCE.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Under one year of age	2	2
1 - 2 yrs.	-	2
4 - 5 "	1	-
20 - 30 yrs.	1	-
30 - 40 "	3	1
40 - 50 "	2	2
50 - 65 "	11	8
65 yrs. and over	22	12
	<u>42</u>	<u>27</u>

General Health of the Populace: This has been on the whole very satisfactory. There has been no excessive mortality.

Due probably to longer hours of work and war time conditions minor ailments of fatigue have been more noticeable.

Ambulance Facilities: The ambulance service works smoothly and is efficient. There is a joint district ambulance and the Wigan Police Service also serves this township. The collieries have their own ambulance arrangements.

Nursing in the Home: This is undertaken by the Abram Nursing Association who employ a full time nurse. In certain illnesses in children the County Health Visitor gives her assistance.

Maternity and Child Welfare: This work is undertaken by the Lancashire County Council who have a centre situated close to the Abram Council Offices. Sessions are held every Wednesday at 2 p.m. The attendances are very good and ante-natal work is steadily increasing. If a more convenient building could be obtained the ante-natal work and comfort for the patients would be greatly enhanced. In its present condition it is most unsatisfactory.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1944.

Total deaths: Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal) - 2.
Acute poliomyelitis - 1.

Total cases removed to hospital from the district:-

Scarlet fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Diphtheria (including membranous croup).	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
						Total	20

Disinfection after infectious disease...

No. of houses disinfected during 1944 - 29.

Method (state disinfectant used) - Sulphur Dioxide.

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Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, etc. - Sulphur Dioxide.
(steam or otherwise)

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases

<u>Age Periods</u>	Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.				
0	...	...
1	...	...
5	...	...
10	...	...	1	
15	...	...	2	
20	...	...		1
25	...	...
35	...	...
45	...	...
55	...	...
65 and upwards	1	1		
 Totals	 4	 1	 1	 2
	<hr/> 5		<hr/> 3	

Deaths.

<u>Age Periods</u>	Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.				
0	...	...
1	...	...
5	...	...
10	...	...
15	...	...
20	...	...
25	...	...	1	
35	...	...
45	...	...
55	...	...		1
65 and upwards				
 Totals	 0	 1	 1	 0
	<hr/> 1		<hr/> 1	

Ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths: All cases had been previously notified.

The notification of tuberculosis in this district is efficient.

Diphtheria Immunisation: Immunisation material is supplied free to medical practitioners.

Action taken to provide artificial immunisation: Sessions are held at the County Council Child Welfare Clinic.

No. of children immunised during the year:

- (i) pre-school children ... 48 Prophylactics used ... A.P.T.
- (ii) school-children ... 4 Prophylactics used ... A.P.T.
- (iii) adults ... Nil Prophylactics used

(a) Approximate estimated number of children in the area at 31st December, 1944.	475	909
(b) No. of children immunised up to 31st December, 1944.	349	508
(c) Percentage immunised.	73.4	55.8

Pathological and bacteriological examinations: No. of specimens examined in 1944:- Diphtheria - 6.

From the month of March to June, there were many cases of measles. Fortunately, respiratory complications were few.

Scarlet Fever was of a mild type.

The ever decreasing number of cases of diphtheria is worthy of attention and deaths from this disease are noticeable by their absence. Thanks are due to the admirable effects of immunisation.

No cases of ophthalmia neonatorum having been notified reflects great credit to those who administer the primary treatment to the newly born babes.

Astley Sanatorium is a joint hospital and receives Abram's infectious disease patients. The hospital has its own ambulance. It deals efficiently with all our cases.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply: The supply of the district is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Examinations:

Bacteriological examinations - 2. Results - Satisfactory.
Chemical analyses - 2. Results - Satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspections during 1944: No. of premises visited - 756.

Defects or nuisances: No. discovered - 301; No. abated - 279.

No. of notices served: Informal - 118. Statutory - 8.

Legal Proceedings: No. - Nil; Result - Nil.

Eradication of bed bugs: The method used is to open up all breeding places such as floor boards, picture rails and skirtings and spraying with vermicide after which the whole premises are fumigated with "Thermatox". Twelve cases have been dealt with during the year and there has been no case of re-infestation.

Canal Boats: Number inspected - 6.

Number of infringements of Acts - 1.

Housing Conditions: Houses are mostly of the terrace type built about 50 years ago. Mining subsidence causes serious damage to the structures and drainage and water services. The lack of houses causes overcrowding which is further aggravated by service-men's dependants living with their parents' families.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Action taken with regard to Milk Supply:

Supervision has been maintained over dairies and cowsheds.

Farms: No. of dairy farms - 16.

Approx. number of cows in the district - 135.

Cowkeepers: No. of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms) - 15.

No. of inspections during the year - 117.

No. of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers) - 1.

Examinations for presence of tubercle bacilli:

Tuberculous milk - No. of samples submitted - 15.

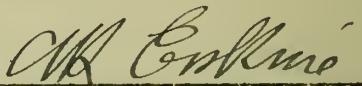
Result: Positive - 1; Negative - Nil.

Bacteriological examinations:

No. of samples - 15.

No. satisfactory - 10; No. unsatisfactory - 5.

Signed,



Medical Officer of Health.

21 DEC 1945.

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